

# **DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 1996-2000**



**FEBRUARY 1996**

## FOREWORD

*The Department of the Navy is pleased to forward the Department of the Navy Environmental Restoration Plan for Fiscal Years 1996-2000. It is intended to chronicle the accomplishments made in cleaning up past hazardous waste disposal sites and provide a plan for achieving future restoration goals.*

*1995 brought significant changes in the way we plan to conduct the business of restoring our Navy and Marine Corps installations. As always, it is our goal to achieve cleanup of past hazardous waste sites in a prudent and cost effective manner. Coupled with that philosophy is a new strategy that stresses the use of risk management to prioritize cleanup actions within a framework of stable funding.*

*Formatting changes in this year's edition organize data into easy to use categories that allow the reader to quickly locate key information. The use of icons and mapboxes enhance the plan's readability. Progress and plans tables track each activity's cleanup efforts through FY 1995 and provide a roadmap for future cleanup actions over the next five years.*

*Consistent with previous reports, special emphasis is placed on installations included on the National Priorities List and for significant Base Realignment and Closure activities. Detailed narratives provide historical information for cleanup actions taken under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Underground Storage Tank program.*

*Appendices list every Navy and Marine Corps installation by state, program and phase. These tables provide a snapshot of the Installation Restoration Program as of 30 September 1995 using information provided by Remedial Project Managers at each Naval Facilities Engineering Field Division and Activity.*

*It is hoped that you will find this edition of the five-year plan to be a useful asset in articulating the Department of the Navy's success in the environmental cleanup arena to installation personnel, regulators and the public. Widest possible distribution is encouraged.*

## COMMENT PAGE

The Department of the Navy (DON) recognizes that cleaning up the Nation's past hazardous waste disposal sites will impact many different segments of the Navy and the Marine Corps from the Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) working on installation investigations and remediations to the research laboratories developing new technologies to assist in the cleanup. We encourage your comments on this Plan. Please mail your comments to the address below, submitting as many pages as necessary. Our goal is to make this plan user friendly and responsive to your needs. Your input is greatly appreciated.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please include my name on the mailing list.

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Additional copies may be obtained by contacting:

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of the Navy (DON) Environmental Restoration Plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 1996-2000 provides a comprehensive look at the DON's efforts and commitment to identify and assess potential areas of environmental contamination resulting from past disposal activities and spills and perform cleanup actions as appropriate.

The DON Environmental Restoration program was initiated in response to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. The passage of SARA brought Department of Defense (DOD) under the CERCLA umbrella with the creation of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) funded by the Defense Environmental Restoration Account (DERA). The Installation Restoration Program (IRP) was established following the implementing guidance set forth in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP) and guidance documents from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The NCP and the EPA set forth a procedure for identifying, investigating and cleaning up contaminated sites resulting from past hazardous waste disposals and spills. The most contaminated of the sites being addressed under CERCLA are put on the National Priorities List (NPL).

Along with CERCLA IRP sites, past disposal and spill areas identified under other environmental laws also qualify for DERA funding due to overlap in the laws. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), a Corrective Action program identifies potential areas of contamination as Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) or as Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) sites. If these sites are the result of past disposal practices and past spills of hazardous wastes, DERA funding can be used to clean them up. Under the Base Realignment And Closure Acts (BRAC), sites that would normally qualify for DERA funding are funded out of a BRAC account and are still considered part of the Environmental Restoration program.

As of 30 September 1995, the DON had 4,288 sites in the Environmental Restoration program at 231 DON installations. Of these, 3,031 sites were in a study phase, 246 had a cleanup underway and 1,011 sites were considered Response Complete (RC) by the DON. Of the 4,288 sites, BRAC funding was used on 802 sites and DERA funds spent on 3,486 sites. During fiscal year 1995, DON spent \$405 million on the environmental restoration program. During FY92, the DON spent only 14% of its DERA funding on actual cleanups compared to FY95 where 59% of the funding was spent on cleanups. Congress recently established a new goal of using 80% of the DERA funds on actual site cleanup by FY98. Expected funding for the DON Environmental Restoration program is \$360 million in FY96. There are 42 DON installations listed on the NPL, five of which were added in FY95.

Due to reductions in funding levels in FY95, the DON placed greater emphasis on innovative approaches to program management with an overall goal to reduce the risk presented by the DON contaminated sites. A second goal was to accomplish cleanups quicker, especially at closing bases to accelerate the return of land to local communities for reuse. A comprehensive effort to evaluate and accurately portray program data and costs was undertaken. A Relative Risk Site Evaluation Model was used to rank DON sites to determine a site's relative risk. Relative risk ranking is a key element in the risk management prioritization process. In general, this will allow sites posing a greater relative risk to be cleaned up sooner. Of the 3,277 active DON sites, 1,382 were ranked high, 621 were ranked medium and 715 were ranked low relative risk. The remaining 559 sites will be ranked by the end of FY97.

By making use of the removal action and interim remedial action processes outlined in the NCP, the DON has been able to take steps to reduce the risk associated with contaminated sites. Increased use of innovative technologies and efforts to transfer these technologies to the field has promoted quicker and less expensive ways to clean up sites. During the summer of FY95, DON increased efforts to work with regulators and other affected stakeholders to structure a national cleanup program within existing fiscal constraints. A new approach to recently negotiated legal agreements uses risk as the primary factor to determine priorities. Incorporation of Site Management Plans has allowed for adjustments in schedules to accommodate relative risk evaluations and funding levels.

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